

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
THE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORIES
16 DIVINITY AVENUE
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS

Wednesday April 3

Dear Joshua

I have been talking earlier this evening with Kenneth Thimann. He told me of his conversation with you in New York. I was disappointed in that it appears that you may decide to go to Berkeley without first coming here to look us over. I think this would be a mistake but of course I'm terribly prejudiced in favor of your coming here. Since, however, I have always had a very favorable impression of Berkeley I cannot argue that you are going to an easier or even only good environment. But I can say very sincerely that I believe Harvard to be a much finer university both in a ~~human~~ way and also scientifically.

Harvard is in some ways very much like the English Cambridge - Almost everything about it argues for its greatness and even when almost everything goes wrong, it does not take much to set it right. Biology I believe is a case in point - There is little point in denying that it has not been up to decent standards - It needed along once they decided to ~~modestly~~ modulate some more. That ~~they~~ was not attained a decent position here some 5 years ago is a sorry reflection on its incompetence. But there is absolutely no doubt that the administration is out to correct this mess and will do everything in its power to bring here the best people it can lay its hands on. Biology (our group) are very competent. ~~team~~ works to make this the best Biology Department in this country and I feel

that this will happen - the only question is how soon. We now have a half empty building and 8 professors over 63 - so everything will soon change and I think it would be a great mistake not to come here because of the fact that none of these outside men are in some respects invited. What will happen here will be decided by what the younger people do and I hope very much that we concentrate on "Growth" in a very broad sense. Already we have a quite decent nucleus in George Lewis, John Fossell, and Kenneth Thomas. There is also the possibility that Pepperrell will be here, if he wishes. I also have hopes that Alan Mitchell can be induced to leave England and provide ^{us} with some sparkle in Embryology.

The strangest aspect of the environment here, however, are the chemists. The Chemistry Department is really quite fantastic and far exceeds the counts considerably - I think there is absolutely no doubt that we have the best group of chemists in the world, perhaps not in quantity, but certainly in quality - There is no chemist like Woodward, a few whom I think you would enjoy considerably. Moreover here probably applies little that is beneficial, but nevertheless something happens here. As a biologist I cannot imagine a better group than Westheimer, Doty, Forman, and Sillen. But, to return with our particles.

There is also the large group connected with the Medical School. You know of course that Bernie Davis is coming here and he shall only be a 20 minute ride away. And also to be considered is Albert Coates - at first site perhaps a strange choice, but really quite competent one with a damn good talent for doing the right experiment. Then in Paul Zamecnik's group at

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Mess. General you ~~were~~ have the most productive group now messing with protein synthesis - so from this I think we can hold our own against the Bewarey of the present on the future.

Of course you will not find a large group of geneticists, such as MacLeod or Trenberth possess. But honestly I do not think this is a disadvantage to our research - I do not regard genetics as an end in itself - I am basically interested in the cell as a whole I am, this sounds trite) and for most of this work, there is little need, to call it the science of formal genetics. Obvious an introductory course in Genetics must be taught but for the students at the heat in year, it will be far better to concentrate on teaching them what will be necessary to effectively studying the various manifestations of growth - this I suspect will be good doses of metabolic genetics, modern embryology and immunology, and biochemistry. That is I feel we must be very strong in these fields if we are really to be the leaders of the next 20 years. John Edsall and I are now setting ^{up} labs for decent macromolecular protein and nucleic acid chemistry and this should be operating in about 1 year. In size they ^{will} be built the same laboratory but I hope that they will have some of its better features.

I could go on but I think that fine is probably little point. I only wish to say how much I hope you decide to come here for a few days and look over Harvard. &

I said in my earlier letter to you, there is something splendid about the general atmosphere
and I think in the long run, you would enjoy Harvard far more than the University of California -
in some ways, this is still a small school and you would be able to be far more personal

is your feeling ^{to} ~~that~~ a general antipathy toward the Regents of California would prevail.

Admittedly we have a large building but it is still devoted to "the sciences" and if you
come here you shall definitely feel that you are in the center of things - At Berkeley to go this
far west also, in Europe one wonders if it ^{is} true

But then again I am ~~too~~ prejudiced

Yours